

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification by marked up replacement paragraph(s) as follows.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 1, lines 7-16, as follows:

The present application is related to the following co-pending applications, which are filed on even date herewith and incorporated herein by reference:

- (1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No.     /     (~~Docket No. RIC00033~~) 09/723,482,  
entitled "Network Access System Including a Programmable Access Device Having  
Distributed Service Control;"
- (2) U.S. Patent Application Serial No.     /     (~~Docket No. RIC00042~~) 09/723,481,  
entitled "Programmable Access Device for a Distributed Network Access System;" and
- (3) U.S. Patent Application Serial No.     /     (~~Docket No. RIC00043~~) 09/723,501,  
entitled "External Processor for a Distributed Network Access System."

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 8-23, as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, the external processor transmits a control message to the programmable access device to establish a configuration of the programmable access device. The programmable access device then communicates messages to the external processor for service processing in accordance with the configuration. For example, the control message may be a filter control message that establishes a configuration of a packet header filter in the programmable access device. The packet header filter then communicates network

messages filtered from a packet flow in accordance with the configuration established by the control message. To limit the communication of network messages from the programmable access device to the external processor, the ~~programmable access device~~ external processor can send a message setting message interface flags in the programmable access device. The external processor may also transmit a monitor control message to the programmable access device to establish a configuration of a monitor in the programmable access device. The programmable access device then communicates reporting messages to the external processor in response to the configuration of the monitor.

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